

# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## CULTIVATING SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR LIFE

- Received \$279,920 in federal grants for nutrition education for limited-resource families. More than 1,100 Leon County families completed 10 classes each, and more than 11,000 educational contacts helped families improve food and nutrition habits to graduate from the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education program.
- Provided coordination and oversight for 15 active school and community vegetable gardens in Leon County, engaging more than 200 participants in a variety of gardening activities.
- Family and Consumer Sciences, Master Gardener, Master Wildlife Conservationist and 4-H youth and adult volunteers contributed more than 26,000 hours of volunteer service to Cooperative Extension programs, an equivalent of approximately 13 full-time employees.
- Master Gardener-Habitat for Humanity Partnership Project volunteers worked with Habitat clients to design and install landscapes, both for appearance and level of maintenance, while adhering to the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods principles of sustainable gardening and environmental stewardship.
- Produced 12 television and 7 radio shows in cooperation with WFSU to promote Florida-friendly landscaping and community gardens. Cooperative Extension, with the help of faculty and volunteers, published 56 garden columns and 18 magazine articles.
- More than 400 youth from low-income families completed a series of five Family Nutrition Program classes, and 595 nutrition educational contacts were made with older Leon County residents on topics including nutrition, food safety and the importance of physical activity.
- Received \$50,000 in federal grants to raise awareness and expertise regarding food safety, state and federal regulations, and marketing skills for limited-resource farmers.
- Awarded Business Partner of the Year by Florida Project Learning Tree for the environmental education training program.
- 2,108 residents received technical assistance with sustainable agriculture, apiary production, specialty crop farming and equine care through workshops, group consultations and farm visits.
- Trained more than 250 childcare workers and senior volunteers to improve the nutritional habits of children.
- More than 7,500 youth enhanced decision-making skills, leadership and communication through participation in 4-H programs and activities, including 6,636 youth who gained skills in preparing, writing, and presenting a speech by participating in the 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking County and District Contests.



### DID YOU KNOW

The Master Gardener Association, in conjunction with UF/IFAS Extension, is now accepting gardening questions via email. Send your question to: [Ask-a-MasterGardener@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:Ask-a-MasterGardener@leoncountyfl.gov).

Cooperative Extension is a partnership between state land grant universities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments. These groups share in the planning, financing and operation of Extension programs. The University of Florida administers Extension services for the state, and Leon County provides support for local faculty, staff and facilities. Local advisory committees make sure programs are designed to meet community needs.

Cooperative Extension, led by Dr. Betty Miller, conducts research-based educational programs in family and consumer sciences, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, natural resources and youth development.

Dr. Miller, who has been designated as a Certified Family Life Educator by the National Council on Family Relations, has been with Cooperative Extension for 15 years and director for six years, serving first as a Family & Consumer Sciences Agent. She provides leadership, program coordination, and professional development for nine university faculty, five program assistants and three support personnel.

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